

RESPONSE AND REMARKS:

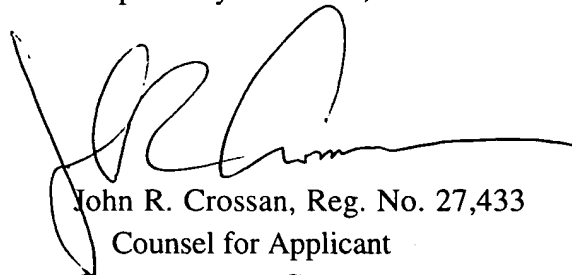
The examiner has imposed a restriction requirement among the five embodiments of the invention shown in the drawings, requiring an election of a single disclosed embodiment for prosecution until a generic claim is allowed, and indication of what claims are readable on that embodiment.

Applicant elects the species of FIG. 11, on which is readable claims 1-15, 20-25, 29, and 31-43. Independent claim 11 is generic to all the species of Figs. 9-11; Fig. 8 will be cancelled when claims are allowed.

Preliminary amendments are made to the two independent claims not having the length to diameter ratio recitation, to require that that ratio be less than 3.25, in accordance with preferred forms of the invention. Clean copies of the amended claims are attached.

Prompt examination of this case as restricted and elected, including allowance of generic claim 11, and examination then of all of claims 1-50 as amended, are earnestly solicited. If any questions or issues appear, please telephone undersigned counsel.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

1. (once amended) An elongated, compact cutting element for use in cutting a nonductile material, the element comprising,

a contact structure formed at a distal end of the cutting element for engaging said material,

a tapered structure adjacent said contact structure,

a circumferentially engageable portion spaced from the contact structure, and

a threadably engageable mounting structure at the opposite end of the cutting element from the contact structure,

wherein at least a portion of the contact structure is harder than 67 on the Rockwell C scale and wherein the total length of the cutting element divided by a largest diameter of the cutting element is less than 3.25.

31. (once amended) A cutting element for cutting brittle materials, the cutting element comprising:

a contact structure comprised of a first material,

a generally tapered shoulder adjacent said contact structure, the shoulder comprised of a second material, and wherein

the hardness of the second material is at least 1000 points on the Vickers scale, and

the hardness of the first material is at least 300 points harder on the Vickers scale than the second material, and wherein

the total length of the cutting element divided by the largest diameter of the cutting element is less than 3.25.



CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on the date indicated below.

Brenda Walton

Name of person mailing paper

Brenda Walton

Signature

April 22, 2002

Date